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formation) in the Montana group, and that they are strictly equivalent to the Belly River beds of Canada. The authors believe that the Eagle formation marks the base of the Montana group, that the Bearpaw shales, Judith River beds, Claggett, and Eagle formations belong to the Montana group and are "equivalent to the Pierre as that term is generally understood," and that "the use of the term Fox Hills as a formation or horizon name outside of the original area in South Dakota is of doubtful propriety."

C. W. W.

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*The Limeless Ocean of Pre-Cambrian Time.* By REGINALD A. DALY.  
(Reprint from *American Journal of Science*, Vol. XXIII, February, 1907, pp. 93-115.)

The conception of limeless ocean is urged as an explanation of the absence of fossils in non-metamorphic pre-Cambrian rocks. In Eozoic time the lime-salts inherited from Azoic time were precipitated as carbonate, because of the production of ammonium carbonate by decomposing organic matter. This and other conclusions are based on premises some of which are observational and sound, but others are postulates and deductions of indeterminate value. Perhaps unintentionally the author (p. 113, premises 9, 10, 11, and p. 100) has left the impression that the  $\text{CaCO}_3$  of the sea has been always derived mainly from pre-existing limestone, instead of from decomposed silicates. From the hypothesis interesting deductions are made as to the early development of the hard parts of organisms.

C. W. W.

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*Rate of Recession of Niagara Falls.* By G. K. GILBERT. Accompanied by a Report on the Survey of the Crest. By W. CARVEL HALL. (U. S. Geological Survey, Bulletin No. 306.) Pp. 31, 11 plates. Washington, 1907.

"The rate of recession of the Horseshoe Fall, or the rate of lengthening of the Niagara gorge, during the sixty-three years from 1842 to 1905 is found to be 5 feet per annum, with an uncertainty of 1 foot. For the thirty-three years from 1842 to 1875 the rate was apparently slower than for the thirty years from 1875 to 1905. The rate of recession of the American Fall during the seventy-eight years from 1827 to 1905 was less than 3 inches per annum." The latter figure is of interest to geologists because somewhat representative of the river's activity in gorge-making when the volume of water was much less."

C. W. W.